

PCNS Minutes for April 27, 2022

The board meeting for April 27, 2022, was called to order in person at Fort Mason at 7:02 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance via Zoom were Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Bob Somers, and Mike McDaniel, and past president Dan Hipple. Governor Ed Treuting sent his regrets for not being able to attend.

The minutes for the March meeting were approved.

The treasurer's financial reports for April 1-26, 2022, as well as the first quarter of 2022 were given to the board for review.

2022 Papers Contest: submissions are due by the end of this April 27 meeting.

Summer BBQ- Federico has graciously agreed to host the event and will coordinate with Jason about a date.

Stephen will be the presenter for May, which will also be our last scheduled in-person meeting at Fort Mason

Adjournment 7:06 PM

At 7:31PM, general meeting #1272 was called to order. Present, in addition to the members from the board meeting, via Zoom were Treasurer Stephen Huston, Doug Ward, Herb Miles, Dean Neald, Scott Safe, Paul Turner, and Mark Clark. Guest Mark Brizzi also joined us.

Entries for the Papers Contest for 2022 are due by the end of this April 27 meeting.

The summer BBQ meeting is being planned for June. Federico and Jason will coordinate on dates, likely June 18 or 25.

Michael W talked about the A.N.A. World of Money show in Chicago August 15-20. He will be presenting a talk to medal collectors there. Several other upcoming shows were also discussed.

Stephen discussed issues with Fort Mason. They acknowledge that we will not be meeting there monthly, and it is known that they lost a lot of business during the pandemic. All the deposits we put down prior to the start of the pandemic have now been used for meetings we have recently had. Fort Mason is now offering rentals in increments of three months at a time, and Stephen asked about single month rentals. Fort Mason did offer December 28 to us (for our December holiday meeting/party), even though their calendar is not open yet. There was no club consensus about whether or not to reserve that room date, so it will be brought up at next month's meeting.

Featured speaker: Michael Wehner
"The Henry F. Muller Token Hoard."

Michael found a bag of 21mm tokens on his desk and remembers how he got them long ago. Over twenty years ago, an eBay seller contacted Michael offering to sell a bag of twelve tokens from

his great uncle. Of course, he met the man and bought them. He described each of the tokens he bought, all likely collected post-1906 earthquake (though at least one dated prior to the quake).

-One token had the initials HFM. If he had not known the source of the tokens, it would have been difficult finding who produced it. It was a liquor token from the seller's great uncle, Henry F. Muller. And although there were four Henry Mullers listed in the San Francisco liquor business, there was only one Henry F Muller on Howard street. So, Michael has a firm ID on the token's origin.

-Herberts. After the 1906 earthquake, liquor sales were banned. In July 1906 there were 200 merchants who were granted liquor licenses, and this was one. The citizens of San Francisco were very happy about that.

-Seal Rock House. This is where the great boxer Jack Johnson trained- Michael showed photos

-Jeremiah Carroll. Sold cigars in the Mission district

-Pioneer Saloon, on Fillmore. It was outside of the area that burned in the 1906 quake.

-Chas HJ Truman. An undertaker on Mission Street. There were a number of SF undertaker tokens made, but this was the only one that was a slot machine token. Did they have a slot machine?

-Lynch Bros. A maverick, likely from Stockton but unknown at present.

-The New Idea. Supporters of the anti-saloon league, a temperance group prior to prohibition. Coffee houses opened up in several cities in the western states, but it was not popular in SF. Michael was not sure where the token was from.

Michael then talked about hoards. They are used to establish relationships of commerce and trade. This pertains not only to ancient times but to this small hoard as well. He used arcade tokens as an example. They were all either 23 or 25 mm, and if one fit in an arcade game, it would be used. People would hang on to arcade tokens they obtained at one venue and would use them at other venues as well. "If it fit in the machine, it was played". Michael told how he went to one arcade which had switched to quarters only, since the business was losing money from people bringing in tokens from the outside and using them (and not buying tokens on-site). Michael got to look through buckets of various arcade tokens and buy handfuls at 25 cents a token- a great way to start a collection.

With slot machine tokens, it was the same thing. These "nickel in the slot" tokens were the same size as nickels. Slot machines were invented in San Francisco, and initially paid out nickels. When that was outlawed, the machines would pay out tokens, which could be played just like nickels in the machines. The Henry F Muller hoard was most likely a collection of various tokens played in the slot machine at Henry Muller's liquor business.

Member Exhibits:

Doug showed a civil war store card token from a grocer in Kenosha, Wisconsin- where a cousin lives. There was a discussion of Civil War patriotic and store card tokens. He also showed a token for the Detroit Masonic Temple Corner Stone Laying in 1922- which could potentially have a 1922 Peace dollar in it.....

Charlie showed a token for the Isle of Man Races, an 1870 pass into the horse races on the island.

Scott showed his 1964 Westchester County Coin Club, New York 30th Anniversary medal. He had been looking for it for a long time, because it was issued in conjunction with the NY World's Fair in 1964. And Michael W was at that fair!

Dean showed a photo of a token he saw at a coin show. It featured the Panama California Expo and East Side Beer Gold Medal on one side, and the Panama Pacific Expo on the other. It was a facsimile of the 3" medal which was won at both expos by that company.

Stephen gave a talk on "GOKs"- God Only Knows coins and tokens. He described how to start identifying unknown tokens. His example was clearly from a hand-cut die used to make the tokens. The one he showed, of unknown origin for many years, was easily identified by Michael as a Minneapolis pinball token from the 1950s, when there was a big pinball craze.

Federico showed his two Costa Rica coffee plantation tokens of Salvador Jimenez Blanco, who traveled to California late in life and died (about age 48) in Napa. Federico described the efforts he went through to finally find info on Blanco.

Finally, Paul showed a 1758 Isle of Man half penny.

The general meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS